

Basic information	
2023/0129(COD)	Procedure completed
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	
Compulsory licensing of patents in crisis situations	
Amending Regulation 2006/816 2004/0258(COD)	
Subject	
3.50.16 Industrial property, European patent, Community patent, design and pattern	
4.20.04 Pharmaceutical products and industry	
Legislative priorities	
Joint Declaration 2023-24	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> JURI Legal Affairs </div>	Rapporteur VÁZQUEZ LÁZARA Adrián (EPP)	Appointed 18/11/2024
		Shadow rapporteur WÖLKEN Tiemo (S&D) ZŁOTOWSKI Kosma (ECR) FARRENG Laurence (Renew) LAGODINSKY Sergey (Greens/EFA) FURORE Mario (The Left)	
	Former committee responsible <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> JURI Legal Affairs </div>	Former rapporteur VÁZQUEZ LÁZARA Adrián (Renew)	Appointed 26/06/2023
	Former committee for opinion <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> DEVE Development </div>	Former rapporteur for opinion The committee decided not to give an opinion.	Appointed
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> INTA International Trade (Associated committee) </div>	SCHOLZ Helmut (The Left)	24/05/2023

	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">ENVI</div> Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">ITRE</div> Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">IMCO</div> Internal Market and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union			
European Commission	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Commission DG</div> Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs	<div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Commissioner</div> BRETON Thierry	
European Economic and Social Committee			

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
27/04/2023	Legislative proposal published	COM(2023)0224 	Summary
12/06/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
05/10/2023	Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament		
13/02/2024	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
19/02/2024	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A9-0042/2024	Summary
12/03/2024	Debate in Parliament		
13/03/2024	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0143/2024	Summary
13/03/2024	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/11/2024	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
05/12/2024	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations after 1st reading in Parliament		
16/12/2024	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 72)		
24/06/2025	Approval in committee of the text agreed at early 2nd reading interinstitutional negotiations		
06/11/2025	Council position published	10498/2/2025	
13/11/2025	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
03/12/2025	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		
04/12/2025	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A10-0246/2025	
16/12/2025	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T10-0319/2025	Summary

16/12/2025	Results of vote in Parliament		
16/12/2025	Final act signed		
30/12/2025	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2023/0129(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Amending Regulation 2006/816 2004/0258(COD)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 57_o Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 207 Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 114
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	JURI/10/01159

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE753.706	16/10/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE756.107	14/11/2023	
Committee opinion	INTA	PE753.730	04/12/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE758.994	09/02/2024	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0042/2024	19/02/2024	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0143/2024	13/03/2024	Summary
Committee draft report		PE781.113	01/12/2025	
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A10-0246/2025	04/12/2025	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T10-0319/2025	16/12/2025	Summary
Council of the EU				
Document type		Reference	Date	Summary
Council position		10498/2/2025	06/11/2025	
Draft final act		00059/2025/LEX	04/12/2025	
European Commission				

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2023)0224 	27/04/2023	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2023)0173	27/04/2023	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2023)0120 	27/04/2023	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2023)0121 	27/04/2023	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2023)0122 	27/04/2023	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2024)350	22/07/2024	
Commission communication on Council's position	COM(2025)0661 	29/10/2025	

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	PT_PARLIAMENT	COM(2023)0224	20/07/2023	
Contribution	CZ_CHAMBER	COM(2023)0224	06/09/2023	
Contribution	IT_CHAMBER	COM(2023)0224	06/09/2023	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES2306/2023	20/09/2023	

Additional information			
Source	Document	Date	
EP Research Service	Briefing	02/02/2024	
European Commission	EUR-Lex		

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	JURI	24/01/2025	BEUC

WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	JURI	22/01/2025	European Comission - DG GROW
VÁZQUEZ LÁZARA Adrián	Rapporteur	JURI	06/11/2024	IP attache of the police permanent representation
VÁZQUEZ LÁZARA Adrián	Rapporteur	JURI	23/10/2024	REPER of Hungary
VÁZQUEZ LÁZARA Adrián	Rapporteur	JURI	22/10/2024	REPER
WÖLKEN Tiemo	Shadow rapporteur	JURI	24/04/2024	Health Action International
DIDIER Geoffroy	Shadow rapporteur	JURI	25/01/2024	U.S. Chamber of Commerce
DIDIER Geoffroy	Shadow rapporteur	JURI	10/01/2024	Association Française des Entreprises Privées / French Association of Large Companies
DIDIER Geoffroy	Shadow rapporteur	JURI	29/11/2023	Gilead Sciences
DIDIER Geoffroy	Shadow rapporteur	JURI	24/10/2023	EFPIA
DIDIER Geoffroy	Shadow rapporteur	JURI	18/10/2023	Pfizer Inc.
SCHOLZ Helmut	Rapporteur	INTA	05/10/2023	Médecins Sans Frontières International Stichting Health Action International
SCHOLZ Helmut	Rapporteur	INTA	04/10/2023	Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative Médecins Sans Frontières International Stichting Health Action International Medicine Law and Policy
VAN BREMPT Kathleen	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	INTA	14/09/2023	Medecins Sans Frontieres and Health Action International

Final act

Regulation 2025/2645
OJ OJ L 30.12.2025

Compulsory licensing of patents in crisis situations

2023/0129(COD) - 19/02/2024 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Legal Affairs adopted the report by Adrián VÁZQUEZ LÁZARA (Renew, ES) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on compulsory licensing for crisis management and amending Regulation (EC) 816/2006.

The committee responsible recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the proposal as follows:

Subject matter

This Regulation has the objective to ensure that a temporary and non-exclusive Union compulsory license may be granted to protect the public interest in the context of cross-border crisis or emergency situations in the Union.

The Regulation aims to lay down rules on the procedure and conditions for the granting as a last resort of a Union compulsory licence of intellectual property rights that are necessary for the supply of crisis-relevant products to the Member States in the context of a Union crisis or emergency mechanism.

Union compulsory licence

The Commission may grant a Union compulsory licence in the event of a crisis mode or an emergency mode **in case no voluntary agreement** with a view to ensuring the supply of crisis-relevant products has been reached between right-holder and the potential licensee within four weeks.

The Union compulsory license that may be granted by the Commission should:

- have a strict limitation concerning scope, field of use, necessary quantities, and a duration that is fully in line with the specific purpose for which the compulsory licence is issued, as well as strictly linked to the scope and duration of the crisis or emergency mode under which it is granted within the Union;
- be strictly limited to the relevant and properly justified activities of crisis-relevant products in the Union;
- only be granted against payment of an adequate remuneration to the rights-holder;
- be strictly limited to the precisely defined territory of the Union;
- clearly state that the licensee is responsible for any liability or warranties related to the production and distribution of crisis-relevant products, excluding the rights-holder from product liability claims.

Advisory body

The advisory body responsible for the EU crisis or emergency mechanism should assist and advise the Commission in identifying and consulting right-holders or their representatives and potential licensees and in consulting other stakeholders and economic operators, including industry, academia and civil society.

The Commission should invite representatives of the European Parliament as observers to the relevant meetings of the advisory bodies, where possible. It should take the utmost account of the opinion of the advisory body. Where the Commission does not follow the opinion of the advisory body, it shall explain the reasons for its decision to the advisory body.

Remuneration

The amended text stipulated that the rights-holder should receive the remuneration within a pre-established timeframe as agreed with the Commission. The remuneration should be determined based on the total gross revenue generated by the licensee from the pertinent activities governed by the Union compulsory licence.

Where appropriate, the Commission should oblige the rights-holder to disclose the trade secrets which are strictly necessary in order to achieve the purpose of the Union compulsory licence. In such cases, rights holders should receive an adequate remuneration.

Obligations to be fulfilled by the licensee

Information acquired in relation to the Union compulsory licence should be treated with utmost confidentiality, refraining, in particular, from making trade secrets available to a third party without the consent of the Commission, which should inform and consult the rights-holder in this regard.

Additional measures complementing the Union compulsory licence

Where necessary, the Commission should decide, upon a reasoned request from the rights-holder or the licensee, or on its own initiative, on additional measures complementing the Union compulsory licence to ensure it achieves its objective as well as to facilitate and ensure the good collaboration between the rights-holder and the licensee.

Where strictly necessary, the Commission should request the disclosure of the rights-holder's **trade secrets** to the licensee to the extent required to provide him with the necessary know-how to achieve the objective for which the Union compulsory licence is granted under this Regulation. The lawful uses of the trade secrets by the licensee should be strictly limited to the manufacturing of the crisis-relevant products in view of fulfilling the objective for which the Union compulsory licence has been granted.

Where the rights-holder is requested to disclose his trade secrets, the Commission should, prior to the disclosure of trade secrets, order the licensee to put in place all appropriate technical and organisational measures that the rights-holder reasonably identifies as necessary to preserve the confidentiality of trade secrets, in particular in relation to third parties.

If the licensee fails to implement the necessary measures required by the Commission, the Commission may withhold or, as the case may be, suspend the disclosure of trade secrets until the situation is corrected by the licensee.

Compulsory licensing of patents in crisis situations

2023/0129(COD) - 13/03/2024 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 484 votes 121, with 20 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on compulsory licensing for crisis management and amending Regulation (EC) 816/2006.

The European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure amends the proposal as follows:

Subject matter

The aim of the Regulation is to ensure access to crisis-relevant patented products needed to address crises in the internal market. In concrete terms, the Regulation aims to ensure that a **temporary and non-exclusive Union compulsory license** may be granted to protect the public interest in the context of cross-border crisis or emergency situations in the Union.

The Regulation aims to lay down rules on the procedure and conditions for the granting **as a last resort** of a Union compulsory licence of intellectual property rights that are necessary for the supply of crisis-relevant products to the Member States in the context of a Union crisis or emergency mechanism. To this end, if no **prior voluntary agreement** has been reached within four weeks between right holder and licensee, the Commission may grant a Union compulsory license.

Union compulsory licence

The Union compulsory license that may be granted by the Commission should:

- have a strict limitation concerning scope, field of use, necessary quantities, and a duration that is fully in line with the specific purpose for which the compulsory licence is issued, as well as strictly linked to the scope and duration of the crisis or emergency mode under which it is granted within the Union;
- be strictly limited to the relevant and properly justified activities of crisis-relevant products in the Union;
- only be granted against payment of an adequate remuneration to the rights-holder;
- be strictly limited to the precisely defined territory of the Union;
- clearly state that the licensee is responsible for any liability or warranties related to the production and distribution of crisis-relevant products, excluding the rights-holder from product liability claims.

Advisory body

The advisory body responsible for the EU crisis or emergency mechanism should assist and advise the Commission in identifying and consulting right-holders or their representatives and potential licensees and in consulting other stakeholders and economic operators, including industry, academia and civil society.

The Commission should invite representatives of the European Parliament as observers to the relevant meetings of the advisory bodies, where possible. It should take the utmost account of the opinion of the advisory body. Where the Commission does not follow the opinion of the advisory body, it shall explain the reasons for its decision to the advisory body.

Remuneration

The amended text stipulated that the rights-holder should receive the remuneration within a pre-established timeframe as agreed with the Commission. The remuneration should be determined based on the total gross revenue generated by the licensee from the pertinent activities governed by the Union compulsory licence.

Where appropriate, the Commission should oblige the rights-holder to disclose the trade secrets which are strictly necessary in order to achieve the purpose of the Union compulsory licence. In such cases, rights holders should receive an adequate remuneration.

Obligations to be fulfilled by the licensee

Information acquired in relation to the Union compulsory licence should be treated with utmost confidentiality, refraining, in particular, from making trade secrets available to a third party without the consent of the Commission, which should inform and consult the rights-holder in this regard.

Additional measures complementing the Union compulsory licence

Where appropriate, the Commission should oblige the rights-holder to disclose the **trade secrets** which are strictly necessary in order to achieve the purpose of the Union compulsory licence. In such cases, rights holders should receive an adequate remuneration.

Disclosure could encompass, without being exhaustively limited to, the comprehensive transfer of necessary technology, expertise, data, samples, and reference products essential for production and obtaining market authorisation in collaboration with the licensee, taking into account both the rights-holder and the licensee's interests.

The Commission should require the licensee(s) to put in place all appropriate measures reasonably identified by the rights-holder, including contractual, technical and organisational measures, to ensure the confidentiality of trade secrets, in particular vis-à-vis third parties and the protection of the legitimate interests of all parties. To that end, right holders should identify trade secrets prior to the disclosure.

Where the licensee fails to implement the measures required for preserving the confidentiality of the trade secrets, the Commission should be able to withhold or suspend the disclosure of trade secrets until the situation is corrected by the licensee. Any use, acquisition or disclosure of trade secrets which would not be necessary to fulfil the objective of the Union compulsory licence or which would go beyond the duration of the Union compulsory license should be considered to be unlawful.

Conditions

The compulsory licence should specify that it is applicable to the whole territory of the Union and should be subject to the following conditions: (i) the licence granted is non-assignable; (ii) the expected amount of product(s) manufactured under the licence are not exceed what is necessary to meet the needs of the importing country or countries cited in the application; (iii) the duration of the licence is indicated; (iv) the licence is strictly limited to all acts necessary for the purpose of manufacturing the product in question for export and distribution in the country or countries cited in the application; (v) products made under the licence are clearly identified, through specific labelling or marking, as being produced pursuant to this Regulation.

Compulsory licensing of patents in crisis situations

2023/0129(COD) - 16/12/2025 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

The European Parliament adopted a legislative resolution **approving** the Council's position at first reading with a view to the adoption of a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on compulsory licensing for crisis management and amending Regulation (EC) No 816/2006.

The proposed regulation aims to ensure that an EU compulsory license can be granted in the context of a crisis or emergency affecting the Union. To this end, it lays down rules concerning the conditions and procedure for granting a Union compulsory license for intellectual property rights that are necessary to supply Member States with essential products in the event of a crisis or emergency declared under a crisis or emergency mechanism provided for in a legal act of the Union listed in the Annex.

The regulation provides that an EU compulsory licence is granted in the public interest and as a measure of last resort when other means, including voluntary agreements to use a protected invention relating to products needed in a crisis, could not guarantee access to those products.

Scope

The regulation establishes the granting of compulsory Union licenses for the following intellectual property rights, in force in one or more Member States: (a) patents and published patent applications; (b) utility models and published utility model applications; or (c) supplementary protection certificates. The regulation does not impose any obligation to disclose **trade secrets**. It does not apply to defence-related products.

Addition of conditions to grant a compulsory licence

The granting of a Union compulsory licence is now subject to **four cumulative conditions**, namely:

- (i) a crisis or emergency mode has been declared,
- (ii) the use of a protected invention which concerns crisis-relevant products is required to secure the supply of those products in the Union,
- (iii) means other than a Union compulsory licence, including voluntary agreements, could not be achieved within a reasonable timeframe and could not ensure access to the products,
- (iv) the rightsholder concerned was given the opportunity to provide comments to the Commission and the competent advisory body.

Compulsory Licensing Procedure

The tasks of the advisory body tasked with assisting and advising the Commission are being restructured and clarified. For instance, experts from intellectual property offices and national authorities responsible for granting compulsory licences must now be involved in advisory body discussions on intellectual property. In addition, Parliament can also participate, as an observer, in the relevant meetings of the competent advisory body, including the ad hoc advisory body.

Where the Commission's decision to grant a Union compulsory licence departs from the opinion of the advisory body, it must indicate the reasons for this. Furthermore, where the Commission decides not to grant a Union compulsory licence, a notice must be published in the Official Journal of the European Union to provide information about the end of the procedure.

Lastly, it is possible to conclude voluntary licensing agreements at any time during or after the Union compulsory licensing procedure

Comitology

The implementing acts on the granting, modification and termination of the Union compulsory licence will be adopted using the examination procedure. A non-opinion clause was inserted to ensure that implementing acts cannot be adopted when the comitology committee does not deliver an opinion.

Remuneration

The licensee should pay appropriate remuneration to the rights holder. The Commission should determine the amount of this remuneration and the time limit within which it must be paid. The criteria for determining remuneration were adjusted to emphasise the economic value of the relevant activities authorised under the Union compulsory licence and public support received to develop the invention.

Fines and penalties

Fines and periodic penalty payments for failure of the licensee to comply with the obligations provided for in the Regulation were adjusted to result in lower payments than proposed by the Commission, as well as to account for SMEs. The Regulation does not envisage fines or periodic penalty payments for the right holders.

Assessment

The Commission is obliged to regularly assess the list of crisis instruments in the Annex to the Regulation and to report on the assessment to the co-legislators every five years. As part of the evaluation, the Commission will have to give specific regard to the issue of semiconductors for medical equipment.

Compulsory licensing of patents in crisis situations

2023/0129(COD) - 27/04/2023 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to establish a new EU-wide compulsory licensing instrument.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: crises require the setting-up of exceptional, swift, and adequate measures able to provide means to address the consequences of the crisis. In this context, the use of patented products or processes could prove indispensable to address the consequences of a crisis.

The COVID-19 crisis highlighted that an appropriate balance between patent rights and other rights and interests is a staple of the patent system. During the COVID-19 crisis, the conflicting interests were access to health products and preserving innovation incentives that are key to developing new health products, such as vaccines and therapeutics. The pandemic added another element to the discussion: the role intellectual property rights could and should play in a crisis.

Voluntary licensing agreements usually suffice to licence the patent rights on these products and allow their supply in the Union territory. However, they may not always be available or only under inadequate conditions such as lengthy delivery times. In such cases, compulsory licensing can provide a solution to allow access to patented products, in particular products necessary to tackle the consequences of a crisis.

It is therefore important that, in the context of said crisis mechanisms, the Union can rely on an efficient and effective compulsory licensing scheme at Union level, which is uniformly applicable within the Union.

Currently, legislation on compulsory licensing of patents in the EU is fragmented: EU countries regulate their own national compulsory licensing schemes, subject to different conditions, scopes, and procedures. In addition, national compulsory licensing schemes are designed to meet the needs of the population of the issuing Member State and to satisfy the public interest of that Member State only. These purely national systems are unable to rely on cross-border value chains and therefore unfit to tackle EU crises.

This proposal is part of the EU patent package, which also provides for the introduction of a system for Unitary Supplementary Protection Certificates and an initiative on [standard essential patents](#).

CONTENT: this proposal lays down the procedure and conditions for granting a Union compulsory licence of intellectual property rights that are necessary for the supply of crisis-relevant products to the Member States in the context of a Union crisis or emergency mechanism.

More specifically, it establishes Union compulsory licensing of the following intellectual property rights in force in one or more Member States:

- patents, including published patent applications;
- utility models; or
- supplementary protection certificates.

An effective EU compulsory licensing mechanism will:

- serve as an effective tool in crisis times as a last resort when voluntary agreements do not work;
- ensure an appropriate territorial reach of compulsory licensing to cover cross-border supply chains;
- build on EU crisis mechanisms.